

5,354,088 discloses a rear binding that can be popped off the board to allow the rider to advance the board along the snow to negotiate a lift line. However, using that system, the rider has the entire binding attached to the back boot which is much less convenient than the interface 1. For example, the binding in the known system has a high-back attached thereto, resulting in the boot having a structure attached thereto that is not nearly as low profile as the interface 1 according to one illustrative embodiment of the invention. In addition, in the known system, the structure attached to the rider's boot includes complete toe and heel attachment mechanisms for binding the rider's foot to the board. In contrast, the interface 1 of the present invention does not extend forward of the ball area of the foot, again resulting in a more low profile structure attached to the rider's boot.

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows. Applicants present the claims as amended and enclose separate sheets indicating amendments to the claims with bracketing and underlining.

51. (Amended) A snowboard boot adapted for use with a non-safety-releasable binding to mount the snowboard boot to a snowboard, the binding including a first engagement member, the snowboard boot comprising:

a sole; and

a second engagement member mounted to the sole to engage the first engagement member;

wherein the second engagement member is an active second engagement member and the first engagement member is a compatible first engagement member that is engageable with the active second engagement member, the active second engagement member being movable, relative to the sole, from a first state wherein the active second engagement member does not engage the compatible first engagement member to a second state wherein the active second engagement member engages the compatible first engagement member to prevent safety release of the second engagement member from the first engagement member during riding; and